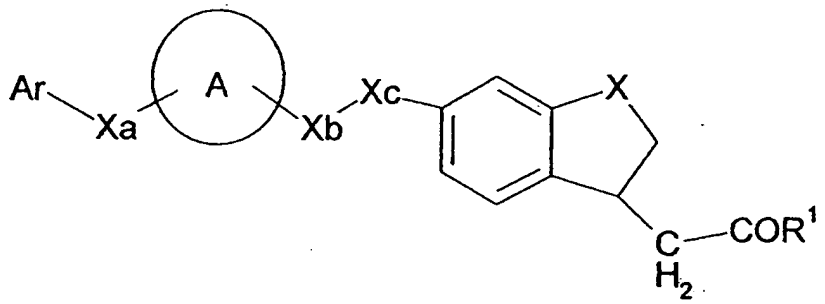
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A compound represented by the formula:



wherein Ar is cyclopropyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, benzo[b]thienyl, indolyl or indanyl,

ring A is benzene which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) at substitutable position(s) selected from

(1) halogen atom;

(2) hydroxy group;

(3) amino group;

(4) nitro group;

(5) cyano group;

(6) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

(7) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group;

(8) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl group;

(9) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-

carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(10) C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(11) C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(12) heterocyclic group (preferably furyl, pyridyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl) optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(13) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group;

(14) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;

(15) mono- or di-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;

(16) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;

(17) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;

(18) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group;

(19) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

(20) C_{1-6} alkylthio group;

(21) C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group;

(22) C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group;

(23) optionally esterified carboxyl group;

(24) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group;

(25) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl-carbonyl group;

(26) C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group;

(27) carbamoyl group;

(28) thiocarbamoyl group;

(29) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group;

(30) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group;

(31) mono- or di-5- to 7-membered heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group;

(32) sulfamoyl group;

(33) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group;

(34) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

Xa is a bond or a spacer having a main chain of 1 to 5 atom(s),

Xb is $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is 1 or 2,

Xc is O,

X = -O-, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$,

R^1 is a hydroxy group or C_{1-10} alkoxy group,

provided that

[6-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-2-tetralin]acetic acid;

methyl [6-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-2-tetralin]acetate;

[7-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-3-quinoline]acetic acid; and methyl [7-(4-biphenylyl)methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-3-quinoline]acetate are excluded, or a salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the cyclic group represented by Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbon group.

4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xa is a bond.

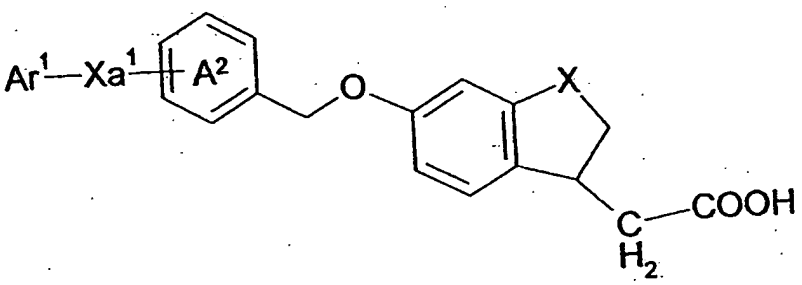
5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein ring A is benzene.

6. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Xb is $-CH_2-$.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is a hydroxy group.

13. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, which is represented by the formula:

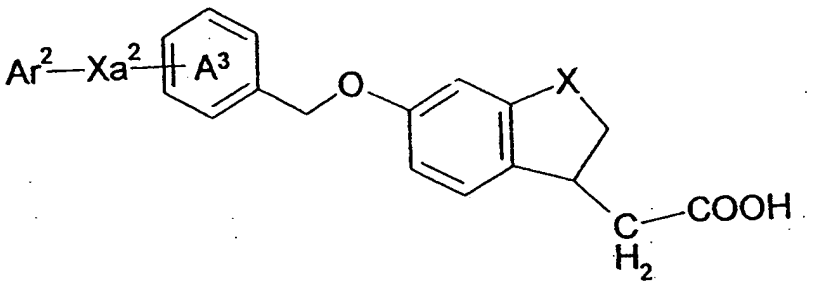


wherein Ar^1 is phenyl group or indanyl group,

Xa^1 is a bond or a spacer having a main chain of 1 to 5 atom(s), and

ring A^2 is benzene which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s).

14. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, which is represented by the formula:



wherein Ar^2 is thiazolyl group,

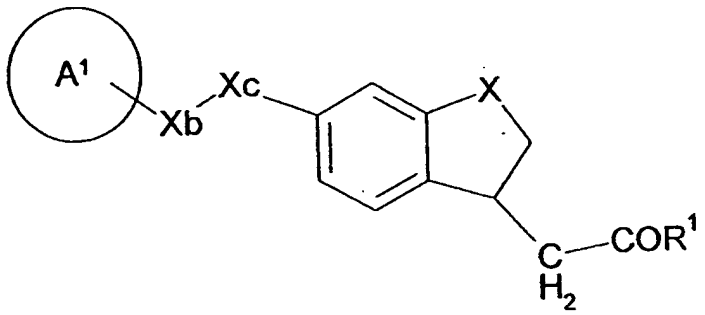
Xa^2 is a bond or a spacer having a main chain of 1 to 5 atom(s), and

ring A^3 is benzene which optionally is substituted by said 1 to 5 substituent(s).

15. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A GPR40 receptor function modulator comprising a compound represented by the formula:



wherein ring A^1 is benzene which optionally has 1 to 5 substituent(s) at substitutable position(s) selected from

(1) halogen atom;

(2) hydroxy group;

(3) amino group;

(4) nitro group;

(5) cyano group;

(6) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl group;

(7) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl group;

(8) optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl group;

(9) C_{6-14} aryl group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(10) C_{6-14} aryloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(11) C_{7-16} aralkyloxy group optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(12) heterocyclic group (preferably furyl, pyridyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl) optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s) selected from halogen atom, hydroxy group, amino group, nitro group, cyano group, optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group, C_{6-14} aryl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, optionally esterified carboxyl group, carbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group, sulfamoyl group, mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group and mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

(13) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-amino group;

(14) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;

(15) mono- or di-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;

(16) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{6-14} aryl-amino group;

(17) N-C_{1-6} alkyl-N-C_{7-16} aralkyl-amino group;

(18) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group;

(19) optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkoxy group;

(20) C_{1-6} alkylthio group;

(21) C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group;

(22) C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group;

(23) optionally esterified carboxyl group;

(24) C_{1-6} alkyl-carbonyl group;

(25) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl-carbonyl group;

(26) C_{6-14} aryl-carbonyl group;

(27) carbamoyl group;

(28) thiocarbamoyl group;

(29) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-carbamoyl group;

(30) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-carbamoyl group;

(31) mono- or di-5- to 7-membered heterocyclyl-carbamoyl group;

(32) sulfamoyl group;

(33) mono- or di-C_{1-6} alkyl-sulfamoyl group;

(34) mono- or di-C_{6-14} aryl-sulfamoyl group;

Xb is $(CH_2)_n$ wherein n is 1 or 2,

Xc is O,

X = -O-, $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$,

R^1 is a hydroxy group or a C_{1-10} alkoxy group, or a salt thereof.

19-23. (Cancelled)